



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carson City District – Sierra Front Field Office

5665 Morgan Mill Road

Carson City, Nevada 89701-1448

http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field.html

In Reply Refer To:

4720 (NVC0200)

OCT 27 2011

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Sierra Front Field Office has issued the Decision Record for the *Flanigan, Dogskin Mountain, and Granite Peak Wild Horse Gather Final Environmental Assessment* (EA) (DOI-BLM-NV-C020-2011-0506-EA). Hard copies are also available at the Carson City District Office. The document and supporting maps may be viewed on-line at:

http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field/blm_information/nepa/nepa_archives.html.

The Final EA analyzed the potential direct, indirect and cumulative effects to the human environment associated with the gather, treatment, and removal of wild horses within and adjacent to the Flanigan, Dogskin Mountain and Granite Peak Herd Management Areas (HMAs), located west of Pyramid Lake, in Washoe County, Nevada. In addition, the BLM has determined that the proposal would not have significant effects on the human environment, and therefore prepared a Finding of No Significant Impact.

Based on 2010 and 2011 population inventories, all HMAs have populations of wild horses in excess of the Appropriate Management Level (AML). The AML is defined as “the number of wild horses that can be sustained within a designated HMA which achieves and maintains a thriving natural ecological balance.” Population inventories estimated the populations to be as follows: Flanigan HMA 324 wild horses (244 animals above low AML); Dogskin Mountain 22 (12 animals above low AML); and Granite Peak 38 (27 animals above low AML). Therefore approximately 283 animals would be permanently removed from the range. As a result of the overpopulation, a thriving natural ecological balance cannot be maintained with the current number of wild horses.

During the gather, treatment and removal of animals, the BLM would remove all animals from outside the HMAs. Under the Proposed Action, the BLM would treat all mares to be returned to the Flanigan HMA with Porcine Zona Pellucida (PZP-22). Based on a gather efficiency of 80 percent, the BLM anticipates that approximately 26 to 32 mares from the Flanigan HMA would be treated with PZP-22. Use of PZP-22 slows the growth rate of wild horse populations and can reduce the frequency of gathers. In addition the sex ratio of animals returned to the HMAs may be adjusted in favor of males. Excess animals would be moved to short-term holding facilities, then prepared for adoption or placed on long-term pastures in the Midwest.

The *Flanigan, Dogskin Mountain, Granite Peak Wild Horse Gather Environmental Assessment* was available for public review and comment until September 27, 2011.

If you have questions on this matter, please contact Alan Bittner, Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist at: (775) 885-6000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "James W. Schroeder". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" at the end.

James W. Schroeder
Acting Field Manager
Sierra Front Field Office